

73. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

74. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73, wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

75. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69, wherein said nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, an antisense oligonucleotide, and a ribozyme.--

REMARKS

To more clearly set forth the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention, claims 1-41 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 42-75 have been entered. These new claims correspond to Group I as defined in a Restriction Requirement dated March 27, 1997 for parent Application Serial No. 08/660,025, of which the present application is a continuation.

Support for the herein-added claims is replete throughout the specification as filed. Support for particles containing a cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid, and a nucleic acid in claims 42 and 69 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 15, line 8, to page 16, line 17. Support for conjugated lipids that inhibit aggregation of particles as recited in claim 42 can be found at page 36, lines 21-23. Support for claim 43 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 4, lines 14-15, and in Example 22, page 67. Support for claim 44 can be found, *e.g.*, on page 1, lines 4-5. Support for claim 45 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 25, line 24 to page 26, line 8. Support for claims 46 and 70 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 15, lines 14-26, and at page 74, line 27. Support for claims 47 and 71 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 15, lines 11-13. Support for claims 48 and 72 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 25, lines 12-15. Support for claims 49 and 73 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 16, lines 14-17. Support for claim 50 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 36, lines 23-25. Support for claims 51 and 74 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 16, line 16. Support for claim 52 can be found, *e.g.*, in row 1 of Table 2, page 54. Support for claim 53 can be found, *e.g.*, in row 2 of Table 2, page 54. Support for claim 54 can be found, *e.g.*, in row 3 of Table 2, page 54. Support for claim 55 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 16, lines 14-17, and at page 15, line 31. Support for claims 56-58 can be found, *e.g.*, in column 3 of Table 2, page 54. Support for claim 59 can be

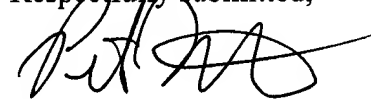
found, *e.g.*, at page 17, line 10. Support for claims 60 and 75 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 17, line 13. Support for claims 61 and 75 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 17, line 14. Support for claims 62 and 75 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 17, line 15. Support for claim 63 can be found, *inter alia*, in figures 23 and 41A-C. Support for claim 64 can be found, *e.g.*, in Figure 41A-C. Support for claim 65 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 72, line 34, to page 73, line 12. Support for claim 66 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 54, line 32, to page 55, line 31. Support for claim 67 can be found, *e.g.*, at page 58, line 5, to page 59, line 18. Support for claim 68 can be found, *e.g.*, in Figures 20-22. Support for the pharmaceutical compositions of claims 69-75 can be found, *inter alia*, at page 36, lines 2-6. No new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter J. Follette, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,213

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: (415) 576-0200
Fax: (415) 576-0300